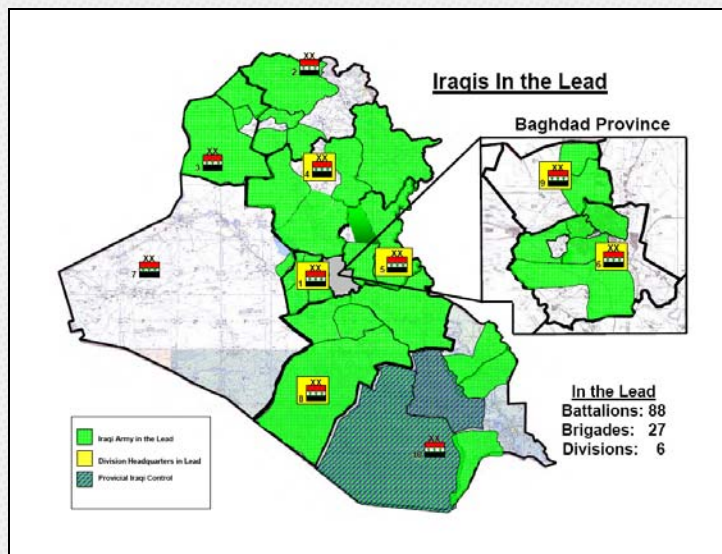


## Iraqi Forces Helping Defeat Insurgency, Stop Sectarian Violence



Iraqi forces continue to grow in number and capability. Areas in green indicate the Iraqi army in the lead; yellow are division headquarters in the lead; and blue are provincial Iraqi control. (Sept. 27 Caldwell [briefing](#))

More than 60,000 Iraqi and Coalition forces are in Baghdad as part of Operation Together Forward. **Iraqi Security Forces outnumber Coalition forces three to one inside Baghdad and are leading most of the operations.**

"Iraqi security forces are making a concerted effort to defeat the insurgency and stop sectarian violence," U.S. Army Maj. Gen. William Caldwell briefed press in Baghdad on Sept. 27. "They clearly carry the preponderance of the weight, with the amount of security forces they have operating within the city."

**Operation Together Forward is designed to reduce sectarian violence in the city.** Iraqi Security Forces are specifically targeting death squads and illegal arms groups in an effort to reduce the number of casualties in Baghdad, Caldwell said. Since mid-July, about 29 cell leaders and 254 cell members have been killed or captured.

During the past two weeks, Coalition and Iraqi forces have also targeted al Qaeda in Iraq, conducting 47 operations, resulting in 29 terrorists killed and 140 suspected terrorists detained. (Link: American Forces Press Service [story](#))

## Iraq Living In Critical Moment But Rising to Challenge, General Says

Iraqi Security Forces' successes are helping pave the way for the development of the country's political system, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. William Caldwell said. Security must improve simultaneously with political and economic progress.

➤ **Under Saddam, government served the will of the dictator and primarily served one sect. Today, Iraqis are learning to share power and wealth.**

➤ Several hundred Iraqi civil society representatives renounced violence this week in Baghdad at the second of four conferences that are part of the prime minister's 24-point national reconciliation and dialogue plan.

➤ This month the governor of the southern province of Dhi Qar took over civilian responsibility for security from Coalition Forces.

➤ In July, Muthana province was transferred. Several more of Iraq's 18 provinces should meet the transition criteria before the year's end.

➤ The Council of Representatives this week announced the formation of a constitutional review committee. The committee will work over the next four months to make recommendations for constitutional changes. (Link: [column](#))

## Iraqi Government, Forces and Coalition Committed to a Peaceful Ramadan

Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, is one of the holiest months of the year for Muslims.

Terrorists, death squads and illegal armed groups are intent on subverting the spirit of Ramadan. They will continue to incite and perpetuate a cycle of violence and death.

The Iraqi government, security forces and the people of Iraq, assisted by Coalition forces, are committed to a peaceful Ramadan, to break this cycle of violence and build a better future.

During the holy month, Iraqi police and army elements will cooperate closely to:

- Operate extra checkpoints;
- Extend the curfew;
- Enforce a weapons ban;
- Develop intelligence; and
- Actively deter terrorist and criminal activities.

The civil and security operations in place in Baghdad and throughout Iraq will set conditions for a peaceful Ramadan, and provide Iraqis the safety and freedom to live and to worship in peace. (Casey [column](#))



Gen. George W. Casey Jr. meets with Iraqis in Baghdad on Sept. 14. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Tanasha Stachelczyk)